



Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 19 October 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

Committee Members present: Councillors V Green (Chairman), D Budd (Vice Chairman), B Ezzard, S Kemp, L Kirk, B Dean (by invitation of the Chair)

Officers present: N Gray, Town Clerk and RFO; T Bailey, Operations Manager

362. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Goodinge and Councillor Turner who were away.

363. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

364. Public participation time

There were four members of the public present. One member spoke in support of the Wareham Saxon Festival. Another member spoke on behalf of the Wareham Community Growers.

365. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 7 September 2022 were **APPROVED** as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

366. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting.

367. Request from the Weldmar Hospicecare Organisation to site Outreach Vehicle

A request had been received from the Weldmar Hospicecare Organisation to site their outreach vehicle in Wareham.

The Committee discussed the request and thought it may be better for the organisation to approach Dorset Council who may have more available open space. However, the Town Council would be supportive of the Outreach Vehicle visiting the area.

368. Request from Saxon Festival Organiser

Members discussed the request from the Saxon Festival Organiser to hold the event on the same weekend and in the same location as the Wareham Carnival.

The Town Clerk stated that a formal application would need to be made by the Organisers and this would be considered by the Amenities Committee.

Concerns were raised in respect of the lack of approach to the Carnival Committee given it would be a joint event. The Carnival Committee had expressed the view that it would be operationally difficult for both events to happen in the same location on the same day. Further discussion took place about the possibility of a joint event taking place in future years and it was suggested that both organisers arrange to meet and discuss possibilities going forward.

Members considered the possibility of the Saxon Festival taking place as a stand-alone event at the Recreation Ground and agreed that an application would be considered if submitted.

It was **RESOLVED** that an application would be considered for the Saxon Festival to take place at the Recreation Ground on an alternative date to the carnival in 2023.

369. Report on incident which occurred at the 2022 Carnival event

The Clerk reported that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Carnival Committee had notified the Clerk that they were not aware of any incident, and that the Operations Manager had been waiting for information. It was therefore agreed to defer this item whilst the Chair and Deputy Chair of Amenities, and the Clerk review the terms and conditions for the booking of the recreation ground for large events for submission to both this Committee and Policy, Resources and Finance.

370. Wareham Community Growers

Members considered a report outlining requests from Wareham Community Growers (WCG) for non-financial support from the Council in its application to enter the RHS Britain in Bloom Competition in 2023, and that the Council permits WCG to collect the summer plants at the end of the season so they may be used the following year.

Councillor Dean spoke on behalf of WCG explaining that they would be entering the Britain in Bloom competition. WCG were seeking assurance that the Council would support the application.

Members expressed thanks to the Operations Team for the summer planting and how good the town had looked through the summer and for the efforts of the Wareham Community Growers in other areas which had made all the difference in obtaining the successful award.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would support the Wareham Community Growers in their Britain in Bloom competition entry for 2023. In addition, the Wareham Community Growers would be permitted to work with the council by removing all of the summer plants to enable them to retain and hopefully reuse some of the plants. The Operations Manager would notify the Chair and the Secretary of Wareham Community Growers when it was an appropriate time for the removal of the summer plants.

371. Christmas Market

Members discussed the possibility of holding a Christmas Market in the town. It was considered that this would be an enjoyable occasion with stalls lining the main streets of the town.

It was felt that it would be too late to organise a Christmas Market in 2022, but a working party should be set up in early spring of 2023, with various interested parties and local organisations, and the Deputy Clerk to take the matter forward and return with suggestions and proposals to the Amenities Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to set up a working party in early 2023 to facilitate a Christmas Market in 2023.

372. Update on Play Area works

Members noted the report which provided an update on the play area refurbishment. Anticipated start dates were confirmed as being:

- 24 October – Carey and the Recreation Ground
- 31 October – Drax Avenue
- 7 November – Northmoor

Site visits would take place by the Project Manager and Operations Manager during the course of the refurbishment, and updates on progress would be given at future meetings.

Members discussed the names for the signage and agreed that the names used during the playground public consultation be maintained.

Councillor Ezzard thanked all the team for the hard work that had gone into bringing the playground projects to fruition.

It was **RESOLVED** that the names for signs be Carey, Drax Avenue, Northmoor and Recreation Ground.

373. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

There were no items that the Chairman deemed urgent.

374. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled to be held at **7.00pm on 30 November 2022**.

Chairman..... Date.....